October 2003

West Pointe a la Hache Outfall Management (BA-04c)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1994
Cost: $4.1 million
Project Area: 16,912 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 1,087 acres
Project Type: Outfall Management and Hydrologic Restoration

Location

The project is located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

The Mississippi River levee has stopped the annual flooding that nourished the surrounding marshes with sediment, nutrients, and fresh water. In addition, the dredging of major navigation canals has provided avenues for salt water from the Gulf of Mexico to intrude into low-salinity marshes.

Restoration Strategy

In 1991 the West Pointe a la Hache siphon (state project BA-04) was constructed to draw water from the Mississippi River into nearby marshes. The siphon has a maximum capacity of approximately 2,100 cubic feet per second through eight 27 inch tubes. The objective of the siphon is to restore the marshes to a fresher state by reintroducing fresh water, sediment, and nutrients to the area.

The objective of the outfall management project is to optimize the distribution of the introduced fresh water and sediment by managing water flow through the area so that it flows more efficiently over the marsh.

This project will utilize water control structures to divert the water from the main distributary channels to secondary channels. The project components consist of three rock weirs, three earthen plugs, and spoil bank maintenance.

Water control structures, similar to the one pictured here will assist in optimizing distribution of fresh water that will nourish emergent marshes within the project area.

Progress to Date

Geotechnical investigations revealed extremely poor foundation conditions, which resulted in an increase in cost that was approved by the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force.

In addition, oyster issues and siphon operations are being reviewed by Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Hydrologic modeling is currently underway in an effort to estimate resulting benefits and to optimize design of proposed features.

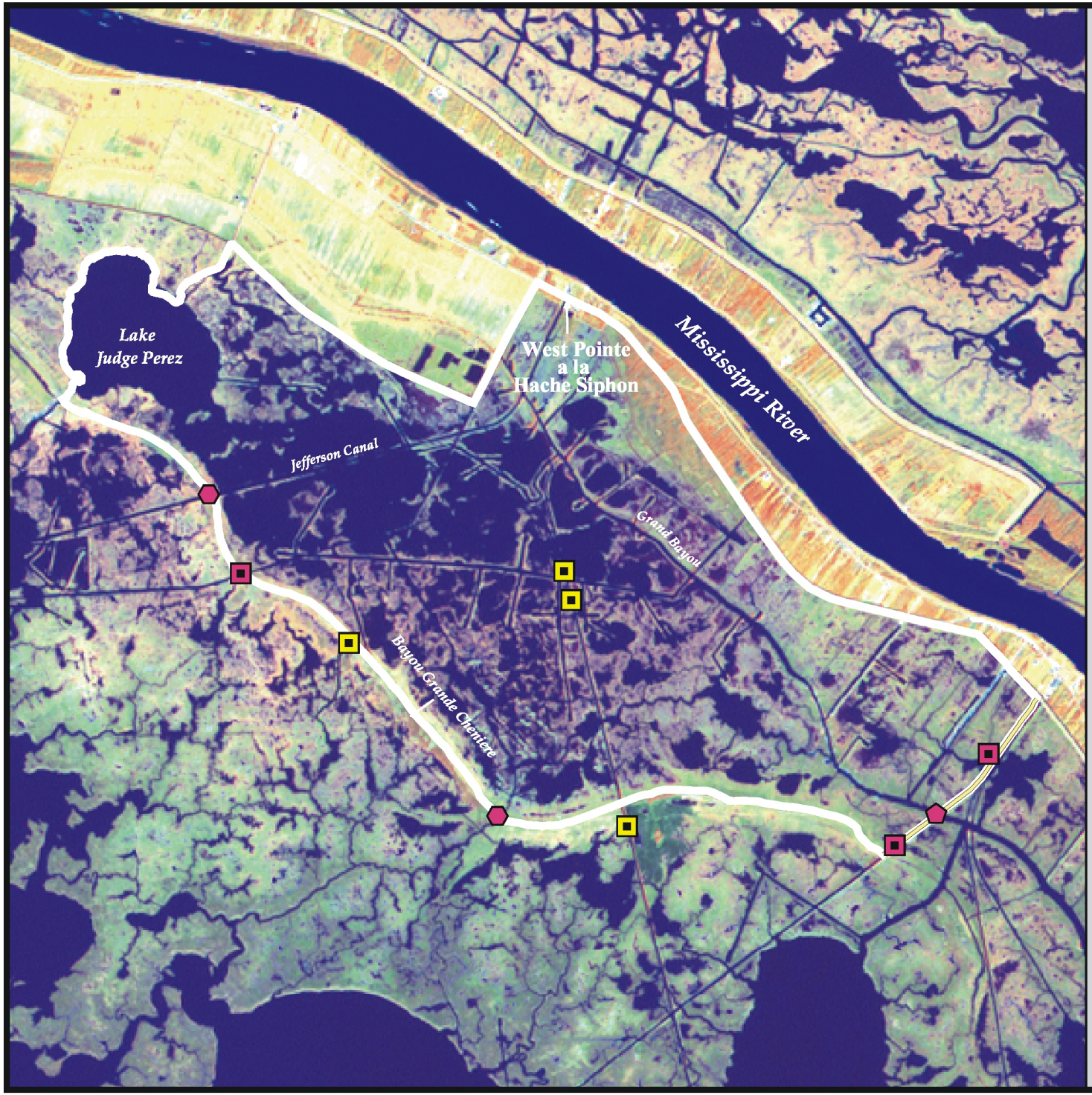
This project is on Priority Project List 3.

For more project information, please contact:

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7756

Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308



West Pointe a la Hache Outfall Management (BA-04c)

- Existing Plugs
- Plugs*
- Weir with Barge Bay*
- Weir with Boat Bay*
- Spoil Bank Maintenance
- Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

Louisiana

Project Location

N

1 0 1 Miles

1 0 1 Kilometers

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
2002 Thematic Mapper Imagery

Map Date: August 12, 2003
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